

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A slide projector comprising projection means for directly projecting an image from a slide perpendicularly onto a projection surface, the projection means being such that the projected image of the slide lies, in use, in a substantially planar projection surface, the projection means comprising:

a light source;

at least two vertically juxtaposed slides parallel to each other;

rotation means to rotate at least one of the slides; and

means to provide an air flow to thereby provide a negative pressure below said slides to retain the slides in their respective positions and

~~a projecting lens movable between a first position, directly above the at least two slides, and a second position away from the first position, thereby to allow easy access to the slides.~~

2. (currently amended) A slide projector according to claim 1, wherein the image is projected vertically from [the] at least one of said slides onto a substantially planar projection surface.

3. (currently amended) A slide projector according to claim 1, wherein the at least two slides are in [the] a horizontal plane.

4. (cancelled) A slide projector according to claim 1, wherein the projector means comprises rotation means for rotating at least one of the slides.

5. (currently amended) ~~A slide projector according to claim 4,~~ A slide projector comprising projection means for directly projecting an image from a slide perpendicularly onto a projection surface, the projection means being such that the projected image of the slide lies, in use, in a substantially planar projection surface, the projection means comprising:

a light source;

at least two vertically juxtaposed slides parallel to each other;

rotation means to rotate at least one of the slides, wherein the rotation means is in the form of a rotatable carousel; and

a projecting lens movable between a first position, directly above the at least two slides, and a second position away from the first position, thereby to allow easy access to the slides.

6. (currently amended) A slide projector according to claim 5, wherein the rotatable carousel is able to rotate [the]at least one of said slides at a predetermined speed.

7. A slide projector according to claim 1, wherein the projection means further comprises mounting means for holding at least one of the slides in a fixed position.

8. (currently amended) A slide projector according to claim 7, wherein the fixed slide is positioned directly below [the]a rotatable slide.

9. (currently amended) A slide projector according to claim 8, wherein the projection means further comprises means for retaining the slides on [the]a carousel and the mounting means respectively, and for keeping the slides in close contact therewith.

10. A slide projector according to claim 9, wherein the retaining means further comprises means for providing of an air flow above and below the slides.

11. (Cancelled) A slide projector according to claim 10, wherein the air flow providing means is such as to provide a sub-atmospheric pressure below the slides, thereby retaining them in their respective position.

12. A planetarium having a slide projector constructed in accordance with Claim 1.

13. A planetarium having a slide projector constructed in accordance with Claim 7.

14. A planetarium according to claim 13, wherein the fixed slide is such as to display, in use, an image of a night horizon.

15. A planetarium according to claim 12, wherein the projector means comprises rotation means for rotating at least one of the slides.

16. A planetarium according to claim 15, wherein the rotatable slide is such as to display, in use, an image of a starfield.

17. A planetarium according to claim 12, wherein the rotatable slide is such as to display, in use, an image of a planet and any celestial bodies associated therewith.

18. A planetarium according to claim 12, wherein the rotatable slide is such as to display, in use, an image of a solar system and any celestial bodies associated therewith.